

Playa Linda maintains a happy, healthy resort



Page 9

Social Security benefits to jump by 8.7% next year



Page 2

A Social Security card is displayed on Oct. 12, 2021, in Tigard, Ore. Millions of Social Security recipients will soon learn just how high a boost they'll get in their benefits next year.

Associated Press

AHATA Tourism recovery still going well



Page 7

Towards Integrity in Aruba



Page 11

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Social Security benefits to jump by 8.7% next year

From Front

By **FATIMA HUSSEIN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Millions of Social Security recipients will get an 8.7% boost in their benefits in 2023, a historic increase but a gain that will be eaten up in part by the rising cost of everyday living.

The cost-of living adjustment — the largest in more than 40 years — means the average recipient will receive more than \$140 extra a month beginning in January, the Social Security Administration said Thursday. While Social Security recipients welcomed the benefit increase, many said it wasn't enough to cover the impact of inflation.

It's "not much help," said 85-year-old Shirley Parker, who lives in Chatham on Chicago's South Side, Home maintenance costs and high grocery prices are cutting steeply into her budget. "Food is ridiculous. I come out with a bag full of groceries — \$50 — don't have about 10 items," she said.

A separate government report Thursday showed inflation newly accelerating. The Consumer Price Index rose 0.4% for September after just 0.1% in August and is up 8.2% for the past 12 months. Jobless claims for unemployment benefits rose for the week.

The Social Security Administration said the estimated average monthly Social Security benefit for all retired workers will be \$1,827 starting in January, according to an agency fact sheet.

The boost in Social Security benefits will be coupled with a 3% drop in Medicare Part B premiums, meaning retirees will get the full impact of the Social Security increase.

"This year's substantial Social Security cost-of-living adjustment is the first time in over a decade that Medicare premiums are not rising and shows that we can provide more support to older Americans who count on the benefits they have earned," said the Social Security Administra-



U.S. Social Security Administration office is seen in Mount Prospect, Ill., Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2022. Associated Press

tion's acting commissioner, Kило Kijakazi.

President Joe Biden on Thursday afternoon echoed the sentiment that the Medicare premium reduction would have some impact on retirees' wallets. "Seniors are gonna get ahead of inflation next year," Biden said. "For the first time in 10 years, their Social Security checks will go up while their Medicare premiums go down."

Jo Ann Jenkins, CEO of the AARP, said the benefits increase "will provide much needed relief to millions of Americans."

Several government indexes show that inflation hits older Americans harder than the rest of the population. Medical costs are a big part of the burden.

The Social Security announcement comes just weeks before the midterm elections, and at a time when Democrats and Republicans are sparring about high prices now and how best to shore up the program financially in the future.

William Arnone, chief executive of the National Academy of Social Insurance, an advocacy organization for Social Security,

said the benefit increase is "no cause for celebration," since it will not help all recipients overcome inflation, especially if prices continue to rise.

"There's already indications that health care inflation is going to be through the roof next year," Arnone said.

Margaret Toman, a 78-year-old in Garner, North Carolina, who had stopped working to take care of her mother, who has since died, described the 8.7% increase as "quite stingy."

"I think most of us who are older receiving Social Security are grateful for that Social Security," she said. "But that gratitude sometimes covers up or replaces a certain feeling of anger at having paid into a system for so long and still struggling to survive."

About 70 million people — including retirees, disabled people and children — receive Social Security benefits. This will be the biggest increase in benefits that baby boomers, those born between the years 1946 and 1964, have ever seen. The last time a COLA was higher was in 1981, at 11.2%.

Willie Clark, 65, of Waukegan, Illinois, says his budget is "real tight" and the increase in his Social Security disability benefits could give him some breathing room to cover household expenses he's been holding off on.

Still, he doubts how much of the extra money will end up in his pocket. His rent in an apartment building subsidized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is based on his income, so he expects that will rise, too.

Social Security is financed by payroll taxes collected from workers and their employers. The maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security payroll taxes for 2023 is \$160,200, up from \$147,000 in 2022.

The financing setup dates to the 1930s, the brainchild of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who believed a payroll tax would foster among average Americans a sense of ownership that would protect the program from political interference.

Next year's higher payout, without an accompanying increase in Social Security contributions, could put additional pressure on

a system that's facing a severe shortfall in coming years.

The annual Social Security and Medicare trustees report released in June says the program's trust fund will be unable to pay full benefits beginning in 2035.

If the trust fund is depleted, the government will be able to pay only 80% of scheduled benefits, the report said. Medicare will be able to pay 90% of total scheduled benefits if the fund is depleted.

In January, a Pew Research Center poll showed 57% of U.S. adults saying that "taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound" was a top priority for the president and Congress to address this year. Securing Social Security got bipartisan support, with 56% of Democrats and 58% of Republicans calling it a top priority.

Some solutions for reforming Social Security have been proposed, but none has moved forward in a sharply partisan Congress. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Thursday the COLA announcement is a reminder that "extreme MAGA Republicans are openly plotting new schemes to slash seniors' benefits and raise their costs — including by threatening to cause an economic catastrophe by holding the debt limit hostage for their toxic agenda."

Earlier this year, Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., issued a detailed plan that would require Congress to come up with a proposal to adequately fund Social Security and Medicare or potentially phase them out.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., publicly rebuked the plan and Biden has used Scott's proposal as a political bludgeon against Republicans before the midterm elections.

"If Republicans in Congress have their way, seniors will pay more for prescription drugs and their Social Security benefits will never be secure," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said. □

Trial: Trump tweet about 'wild' protest energized extremists

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Members of the far-right Oath Keepers were ecstatic when then-President Donald Trump invited supporters to a "wild" protest in Washington on Jan. 6, 2021, when Congress would be certifying the results of the 2020 election, according to messages shown Thursday during the seditious conspiracy trial for the militia group's founder and four associates.

During an FBI agent's testimony, jurors saw a string of online posts that Oath Keepers members in Florida exchanged after Trump's tweet on Dec. 19, 2020, about a "big protest" at the upcoming joint session of Congress on Jan. 6. "Be there, will be wild!" Trump said.

"He wants us to make it WILD," Kelly Meggs, an Oath Keepers leader from Dunnellon, Florida, wrote in a message to other group members. "He called us all to the Capitol and wants us to make it wild!!! Sir Yes Sir!!!" Trump's words appeared to energize Oath Keepers members. They used an encrypted messaging app to discuss their plans to be in the nation's capital on Jan. 6, when, after a Trump



Members of the Oath Keepers on the East Front of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington. Associated Press

rally near the White House, a mob stormed the Capitol and disrupted Congress from certifying Democrat Joe Biden's victory over the Republican incumbent.

"These will be flying Jan. 6 in front of the Capitol," Meggs wrote in a post that included the image of an Oath Keepers flag.

Graydon Young, an Oath Keepers member from Florida who has pleaded guilty to a conspiracy charge, said he was going to Washington even though it "feels like a fool's errand."

Oath Keepers founder and national leader Stewart Rhodes responded on Dec. 25, 2020, that he disagreed with that assessment.

"Trump needs to know we support him in using the Insurrection Act," Rhodes wrote. "And he needs to know that if he fails to act, then we will." Rhodes added that he believed the Secret Service would be "happy to have us out there" if Trump "calls us up as militia."

A key argument for Rhodes' lawyers is that the Oath

Keepers founder believed Trump was going to invoke the Insurrection Act, which gives the president broad authority to call up the military and decide what shape that force will take. Trump did float that kind of action at other points in his presidency.

Meggs and Rhodes, who's from Granbury, Texas, are on trial with Thomas Caldwell of Berryville, Virginia; Kenneth Harrelson of Titusville, Florida; and Jessica Watkins of Woodstock, Ohio.

They are the first Capitol riot defendants to be tried on seditious conspiracy charges for what prosecutors said was a plot to stop the lawful transfer of presidential power. The Civil War-era charge carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

As testimony continued Thursday, the House Jan. 6 committee played a recording at its public hearing of Watkins saying, "It has spread like wildfire that (Vice President Mike) Pence has betrayed us" and "100 percent" of the crowd would be going to the Capitol right after a Trump tweet that had criticized Pence, as the Senate's presiding officer, for not delaying or rejecting the certification of the Electoral College vote by Congress.

Defense lawyers have accused prosecutors of cherry-picking messages and have said there is no evidence the Oath Keepers had a plan to attack the Capitol.

The trial started last Monday and is expected to last more than a month.

Trump's Dec. 19 tweet also was a focus of a July hearing by the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection. □

Biden administration extends COVID public health emergency

By AMANDA SEITZ

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The Biden administration said Thursday that the COVID-19 public health emergency will continue through Jan. 11 as officials brace for a spike in cases this winter.

The decision comes as the pandemic has faded from the forefront of many people's minds. Daily deaths and infections are dropping and people many of them maskless are returning to schools, work and grocery stores as normal. The public health emergency, first declared in January 2020 and renewed every 90 days since, has dramatically

changed how health services are delivered.

The declaration enabled the emergency authorization of COVID vaccines, testing and treatments for free. It expanded Medicaid coverage to millions of people, many of whom who will risk losing that coverage once the emergency ends. It temporarily opened up telehealth access for Medicare recipients, enabling doctors to collect the same rates for those visits and encouraging health networks to adopt telehealth technology.

Since the beginning of this year, Republicans have pressed the administration to end the public health

emergency. President Joe Biden, meanwhile, has urged Congress to provide billions more in aid to pay for COVID-19 vaccines and testing. The federal government ceased sending free COVID-19 tests in the mail last month, saying it had run out of money. Public health officials are urging people age 5 and older to get an updated COVID-19 booster alongside a flu vaccine this fall before a predicted winter coronavirus surge and a nasty flu season.

As of last weekend, about 13 million people had gotten the updated booster, which targets the omicron variant, according to White House COVID-19



White House COVID-19 Response Coordinator Ashish Jha speaks during the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022.

Associated Press

coordinator Dr. Ashish Jha. The administration has said it would provide 60 days notice before it ends the public health emergency. □

Parkland school shooter to get life sentence for killing 17

By **TERRY SPENCER**

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — A jury spared Florida school shooter Nikolas Cruz from the death penalty Thursday for killing 17 people at a Parkland high school in 2018, sending him to prison for the remainder of his life in a decision that left many families of the victims angered, baffled and in tears.

"This is insane. Everyone knows right? This is insane," Chen Wang, cousin of shooting victim Peter Wang, said at a news conference after the jury's decision was read. "We need justice."

Cruz, 24, pleaded guilty a year ago to murdering 14 students and three staff members, and wounding 17 others, at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Feb. 14, 2018.

The three-month trial to determine whether he should be executed included graphic videos and photos from the massacre and its aftermath, heart-wrenching testimony from victims' family members and a tour of the still blood-spattered building. The jury rejected the death penalty after deliberating for about seven hours over two days.

"We are beyond disappointed with the outcome today," Lori Alhadeff, whose daughter, Alyssa, was killed, said at the news conference. "This should have been the death penalty, 100%. ... I sent my daughter to school and she was shot eight times. I am so beyond disappointed and frustrated with this outcome. I cannot understand. I just don't understand."

Under Florida law, a death sentence requires a unanimous vote on at least one count. The jury found there were aggravating factors to warrant the death penalty for each victim, such as agreeing that the murders were "especially heinous, atrocious, or cruel." But one or more jurors also found mitigating factors, such as untreated issues he had as a child. In the end, the jury could not agree that



Assistant public defender Melisa McNeill, seated with Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooter Nikolas Cruz touches her hands to her head as the last of the 17 verdicts were read in the penalty phase of Cruz's trial at the Broward County Courthouse in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022.

the aggravating factors outweighed the mitigating ones, so Cruz will get life without parole.

Circuit Judge Elizabeth Scherer will formally issue the life sentences Nov. 1. Relatives, along with the students and teachers Cruz wounded, will be given the opportunity to speak.

Cruz, his hair unkempt, largely sat hunched over and stared at the table as the jury's decisions were read. Rumblyings grew from the family section packed with about three dozen parents, spouses and other relatives of the victims as it became apparent the jury was not going to recommend the death penalty.

Many shook their heads, looked angry or covered their eyes as the judge spent 50 minutes reading the jury's decision for each victim. Some parents sobbed as they left court.

Jury foreman Benjamin Thomas, in an interview broadcast on local TV station WPLG, indicated that more than one juror voted for life in prison instead of the death penalty. "We went through all the evidence and some of the jurors just felt that was the appropriate sentence," Thomas said. "I didn't vote that way, so I'm not happy with how it worked out, but

everyone has the right to decide for themselves." He said the jurors reached their decision Wednesday, then went home to sleep on it before bringing it to the judge on Thursday. He said he feels bad for the families of victims and that "it hurt" to watch the decisions being read in court. "There's nothing we could do. It's the way the law is. And that's how we voted," he said.

"This has been really hard on my heart ... I'd rather not see anything like this ever again." Tony Montalto, father of Gina Montalto, expressed disbelief at the finding. He said the jury recognized that Cruz committed terrible acts, "shooting, some victims more than once on a pass, pressing the barrel of his weapon to my daughter's chest. That doesn't outweigh that poor little what's-his-name had a tough upbringing?" "Our justice system should have been used to punish this shooter to the fullest extent of the law," he said. Montalto, president of Stand With Parkland, which represents most of the families and other relatives, also said the decision would do nothing to deter another person from gunning down multiple people in a school.

Michael Schulman, the stepfather of teacher Scott Beigel, said the decision gives anyone a license to kill, then claim mental illness as a defense. "This animal deserves to die. He hunted all of these people," Schulman said. "He planned it for months."

As he spoke to the media, Schulman held up a laptop with an image of Cruz in the school hallway with a gun. "The last thing my son saw was the gunman aiming at him," he said. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said it "stings" that Cruz did not receive the death penalty.

In a case like this, "where you're massacring those students with premeditation in utter disregard for basic humanity ... I just don't think anything else is appropriate except a capital sentence," DeSantis said.

Multiple family members called Cruz a "monster" and talked about the years they waited for justice. They thanked prosecutors for their work, but in the end, they said, they got another blow.

Just days after the shooting, Cruz's defense had offered that he plead guilty in exchange for a life sentence. But then-Broward State Attorney Mike Satz re-

jected that. Broward State Attorney Harold Pryor released a statement Thursday saying: "We have not shied away from telling all of the horror, all of the loss, all of the devastation, all of the pain, all of the facts, all of the truth. We hope that, while there is no such thing as closure, this will bring some measure of finality and justice to this terrible chapter."

Cruz, a former student at the school, said he chose Valentine's Day to make it impossible for Stoneman Douglas students to celebrate the holiday again. The massacre is the deadliest mass shooting to go to trial in the U.S. Nine other people in the U.S. who fatally shot at least 17 people died during or immediately after their attacks by suicide or police gunfire. The suspect in the 2019 massacre of 23 at an El Paso, Texas, Walmart is awaiting trial.

Satz, the lead prosecutor, kept his case simple for the seven-man, five-woman jury. He focused on Cruz's eight months of planning, the seven minutes he stalked the halls of the three-story classroom building, firing 140 shots with an AR-15-style semi-automatic rifle, and his escape. He played security videos of the shooting and showed gruesome crime scene and autopsy photos. Teachers and students testified about watching others die. He took the jury to the fenced-off building, which remains blood-stained and bullet-pocked.

Cruz's lead attorney Melisa McNeill and her team never questioned the horror he inflicted, but focused on their belief that his birth mother's heavy drinking during pregnancy left him with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. Their experts said his bizarre, troubling and sometimes violent behavior starting at age 2 was misdiagnosed as attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, meaning he never got the proper treatment. That left his widowed adoptive mother overwhelmed, they said. □

Associated Press

NATO chief warns Russia not to cross 'very important line'

By LORNE COOK

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin would be crossing a "very important line" if he were to order the use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg warned Thursday, as both the military alliance and Russia are due to hold nuclear exercises in the next few days.

NATO is holding its exercise, dubbed "Steadfast Noon," next week. The long-planned maneuvers are conducted around the same time every year and run for about one week. They involve fighter jets capable of carrying nuclear warheads, but do not involve any live bombs.

Russia usually holds its own maneuvers around the same time, and NATO is expecting Moscow's exercise of its nuclear forces sometime this month. Stoltenberg said NATO will "closely monitor" what Russia is up to. Asked what NATO would do if Russia launched a nuclear attack, Stoltenberg said: "We will not go into exactly how we will respond, but of course this will fundamentally change the nature of the conflict. It will mean that a very important line has been crossed." He added that "even any



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg speaks during a media conference after a meeting of NATO defense ministers at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022.

Associated Press

use of a smaller nuclear weapon will be a very serious thing, fundamentally changing the nature of the war in Ukraine, and of course that would have consequences."

Stoltenberg's remarks came after a meeting of NATO's secretive Nuclear Planning Group, which was held among defense ministers in Brussels, as concerns deepen over Putin's insistence that he will use any means necessary to defend Russian territory.

The meeting, which usually happens once or twice a year, comes amid high

tension as some NATO allies, led by the U.S., supply Ukraine with advanced weapons and munitions to defend itself against Russian aerial attacks.

"Irresponsible and reckless rhetoric is dangerous," U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said of Russian threats to potentially use nuclear weapons in Ukraine. However the U.S. has not seen the need to make any changes to its current military posture or response, Austin said.

European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell also warned Putin not to

cross that threshold. "Any nuclear attack against Ukraine will create an answer, not a nuclear answer but such a powerful answer from the military side that the Russian Army will be annihilated," he said in a speech in Bruges, Belgium. NATO is keeping a wary eye on Russia's movements in its war with Ukraine, but has so far seen no change in its nuclear posture. Putin's nuclear exercises though could make it more difficult for NATO to understand what Russia's intentions might be, potentially increasing the risk of an ac-

cident.

"Russia will also be conducting its annual exercise, I think, the week after or just after the annual exercise," U.K. Defence Secretary Ben Wallace told reporters Wednesday. But "what we don't want is to do things out of routine."

"This is a routine exercise and it's all about readiness," Wallace said, just as "NATO's meeting is all about making sure we are ready for anything. I mean, that is the job of this alliance to make sure that the 30 partners together are ready for what is thrown at us. And we have to continue to work at that."

Fourteen NATO member countries will be involved in "Steadfast Noon," which was planned before Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24. The main part of the maneuvers will be held more than 1,000 kilometers (625 miles) from Russia.

NATO as an organization doesn't possess any weapons. The nuclear weapons nominally linked to the alliance remain under the firm control of three member countries the U.S., the U.K. and France. But France insists on maintaining its nuclear independence and doesn't take part in Nuclear Planning Group meetings. □

Bomb threat leads to evacuation of Norway gas plant

COPENHAGEN, Denmark

(AP) — A bomb threat against a natural gas processing facility in central Norway forced the site's evacuation and briefly halted operations, police said Thursday, adding later that the threat wasn't credible.

The incident came amid heightened security on key energy, internet and power infrastructures following last month's underwater explosions that ruptured two natural gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea that were built to deliver Russian gas to Germany.

The blasts and ruptures happened in international waters off the Baltic coastline of both Sweden and Denmark but within the countries' exclusive economic zone. The damaged Nord Stream pipelines discharged huge amounts of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, into the air.

Gas from Norway's Ormen Lange deepwater facility off the coast which supplies around 20% of UK's gas needs is piped along the seabed to the onshore Nyhamna facility, which was evacuated. The gas is then exported to the U.K.

Police said there was "no evidence that the bomb threat against the Ormen Lange facility was real."

"The perpetrator is known to the police for similar circumstances and the case is being investigated further," said police spokesman Per Åge Ferstad.

Norwegian broadcaster NRK later said a man, known for having made similar threats over several years, had been detained. NRK added that man, who was not identified, previously had been convicted in several similar cases.

Nyhamna is 375 kilometers



Police and personnel from the Home Guard stand guard outside the land plant of the Ormen Lange gas field after a person called in a bomb threat against the plant, in Aukra, Norway, Thursday Oct. 13, 2022.

Associated Press

(233 miles) northwest of Oslo. It is Norway's second-largest gas field and is operated by the Norwegian branch of Shell.

Shell later told Norwegian news agency NTB that workers had returned to the site and production had resumed. □

Iran president accuses U.S. of 'destabilization' amid protests

By **JON GAMBRELL** Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran's president on Thursday accused the U.S. of conducting a "failed policy of destabilization" targeting his nation, as Iranian protesters continued to call for the downfall of its rulers despite a violent and wide-ranging crackdown. President Ebrahim Raisi has repeatedly dismissed the unrest sparked by the death of a 22-year-old woman in police custody as a purported Western plot, without providing evidence. His latest remarks came after protests erupted in cities across Iran on Wednesday, with videos showing security forces apparently firing toward demonstrators.

The protests, in which girls and women of all ages have removed their mandatory headscarves, or hijabs, have become one of the greatest challenges to Iran's theocracy since the country's 2009 Green Movement. Raisi, a hard-line protégé of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has likened the protesters to "flies" and sought to downplay the un-



In this picture released by the official website of the office of the Iranian supreme leader, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaks in a meeting with members of the Expediency Council, in Tehran, Iran, Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2022.

rest. "The Iranian nation has invalidated the American military option and, as they themselves have admitted, brought the policy of sanctions and maximum pressure a humiliating failure," Raisi said Thursday to a conference in Astana, Kazakhstan. "Now, following America's failure in militarization and

sanctions, Washington and its allies have resorted to the failed policy of destabilization," he said, according to a transcript of his remarks. Raisi did not otherwise address the demonstrations, which took place across at least 19 cities on Wednesday. Gathering information about the demonstrations

remains difficult amid the internet restrictions and the arrests of at least 40 journalists in the country, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. Iran's government insists 22-year-old Mahsa Amini was not mistreated, but her family says her body showed bruises and other signs of beating after she was detained for violating

the Islamic Republic's strict dress code.

It remains unclear how many people have been killed or arrested so far in the protests.

An Oslo-based group, Iran Human Rights, estimated Wednesday that at least 201 people have been killed. This includes an estimated 90 people killed by security forces in the eastern Iranian city of Zahedan amid demonstrations against a police officer accused of rape in a separate case. Iranian authorities have described the Zahedan violence as involving unnamed separatists, without providing details or evidence. In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price said America wasn't focusing on possible negotiations with Iran over its tattered nuclear deal amid the demonstrations.

Those talks collapsed in the months before Amini's Sept. 16 death.

"Right now our focus...is on the remarkable bravery and courage that the Iranian people are exhibiting through their peaceful demonstrations," Price said. □

Associated Press

Lebanon's president approves historic Israel sea border deal

By **KAREEM CHEHAYEB** Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's President Michel Aoun said Thursday that the cash-strapped country has approved a U.S.-mediated

maritime border deal with Israel. Lebanon and Israel both claim around 860 square kilometers (330 square miles) of the Mediterranean Sea that are home to offshore

gas fields. The agreement to demarcate the maritime border comes after months of talks mediated by senior U.S. official Amos Hochstein, and would mark a major breakthrough in relations between the two countries, which have formally been at war since Israel's creation in 1948. "This indirect agreement responds to Lebanese demands and maintains all our rights," Aoun said in a televised speech. Aoun made the announcement hours after meeting with caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati and Speaker Nabih Berri, who had received copies of Hochstein's latest iteration of the agreement earlier this week. U.S. President Joe Biden

on Tuesday said that both countries agreed to "formally" end their maritime border dispute, and that their leaders both told him they were ready to take next steps. Israel's Cabinet on Wednesday voted in favor of the U.S.-brokered deal by a "large majority" of its ministers. The agreement will be forwarded to the Knesset, or parliament, for a two-week review period before a final Cabinet vote. Lebanon hopes that demarcating maritime borders will pave the way for gas exploration to help lift it out of its crippling economic crisis. "I hope the end of these negotiations is the promising start to placing the cornerstone for the economic growth that Leba-

non needs through extracting oil and gas," Aoun said. "Which would add stability, security, and development that our nation Lebanon needs." Israel meanwhile also hopes to exploit gas reserves and hopes the deal will reduce the risk of war with Lebanon's Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah. The agreement stipulates that the disputed waters would be divided along a line straddling the "Qana" natural gas field. Gas production would be based on the Lebanese side, but Israel would be compensated for gas extracted from its side of the line. Lebanon has been working with French energy giant Total on preparations for exploring the field. □



In this photo released by Lebanon's official government photographer Dalati Nohra, Lebanese president Michel Aoun addresses a speech on the maritime border agreement between Lebanon and Israel in the presidential palace, in Baabda, east of Beirut, Lebanon, Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022.

Associated Press

AHATA: Tourism recovery still going well

ORANJESTAD – Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association (AHATA) compiles the figures of hotel price and occupancy every month. CEO of AHATA, Tisa LaSorte reports that the figures for occupation fell back during the month of September, but the value trajectory for each room remains positive. The average hotel occupation and RevPAR for the first 9 months of 2022 still have not reached the levels of 2019.

September 2022:

Occupation: The degree of occupation was 72 percent; representing a recovery of 90 percent compared to the level of occupancy in 2019.

ADR: The average value of each sold room was \$256.35, which is 20 percent than in 2019.

RevPAR: the average income for each available room was \$184.29, which is an increase of 8 percent compared to the RevPAR of September 2019.

Average of the first nine months of 2022

Occupation: The average occupation in the first nine months was 74 percent; a recovery of 86 percent compared to 2019.

ADR: The average value of each sold room was \$304.24, which is 9 percent more than 2019.

RevPAR: The average income for each available room was \$224.32, which is a recovery of 94 percent compared to the RevPAR from the first nine months of 2019.

Projection

A recovery of 97 percent is projected for the month of October, and the expectations for the entirety of 2022 is a recovery of 90 percent compared to 2019.

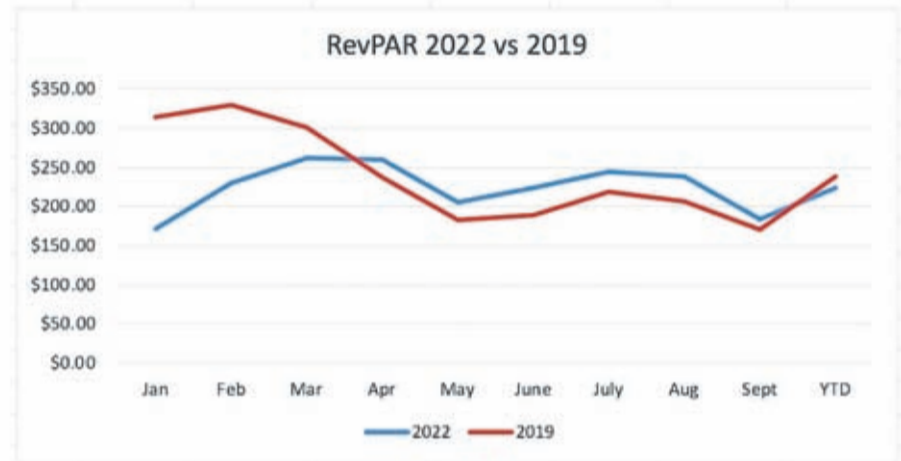
Timeshare:

Occupation in Timeshare properties was 82 percent in September.

Hotels members of AHATA: Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort, Barceló Aruba, Boardwalk Boutique Hotel, Brickell Bay Beach Club, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Courtyard by Marriott, Divi & Tamarijn All-Inclusive, Eagle Aruba Resort, Holiday Inn Resort Aruba, Hyatt Regency Aruba, Hyatt Place Aruba Airport, Manchebo Beach Resort, Marriott Aruba & Stellaris Casino, Paradera Park, Radisson Blu Aruba, Rehoboth Peaceland Boutique Hotel, Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort, The Ritz-Carlton Aruba, RIU Palace Aruba, RIU Palace Antillas and Talk of the Town Hotel.

Timeshare members of AHATA: Divi Aruba Phoenix, Divi Dutch Village, Divi Village Golf, La Cabana, Marriott Ocean Club, Marriott Surf Club, The Mill Resort.

Vacation rental members of AHATA: Aramis Real Estate, Aruba's Life Vacation Residences, Aruba Happy Rentals, Casiola Aruba, Cobalt Blue Fusion (Blue, Azure), Ford Property Management, Turibana Plaza, Santa Lucia Landhuis. □



9-Month Average 2022 vs 2019
AHATA Hotel Performance

Sept YTD	2022	2019	% change
ARN	1,415,101	1,325,744	6.7%
ORN	1,043,353	1,135,138	-8.1%
OCC	73.7%	85.6%	-13.9%
ADR	\$304.24	\$278.50	9.2%
RevPAR	\$224.32	\$238.46	-5.9%

Sept YTD	2022	2019	% change
ARN	1,415,101	1,325,744	6.7%
ORN	1,043,353	1,135,138	-8.1%
OCC	73.7%	85.6%	-13.9%
ADR	\$304.24	\$278.50	9.2%
RevPAR	\$224.32	\$238.46	-5.9%

	Occupancy	Recovery compared to 2019
October	74%	97%
November	80%	95%
December	78%	94%
January	79%	93%
2022 Forecast	76%	90%

September 2022 vs 2019
AHATA Hotel Performance

September	2022	2019	% change
Rooms	5,253	4,697	11.8%
ARN	157,013	140,909	11.4%
ORN	112,878	112,045	0.7%
OCC	71.9%	79.5%	-9.6%
ADR	\$256.35	\$214.15	19.7%
RevPAR	\$184.29	\$170.28	8.2%



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Some of Peru's Best Flavors are Firing up Palm Beach, Thanks to New Pop-Up Restaurant Blu Bar



ARUBA

Blu Aruba, Blu Bar is open daily from 5PM to 11PM.



PALM BEACH, ARUBA – Radisson Blu Aruba, located in Palm Beach, celebrated the soft opening of its new Peruvian pop-up restaurant last week. The unique and stylish Blu Bar: A Peruvian-inspired restaurant that offers everything that you love about Peruvian fusion cuisine, but with a modern twist.

Diners can expect to find many seafood-centric dishes including popular Peruvian eats such as Ceviches and Tiraditos. Some of the highlights from the dinner menu include mouthwatering dishes such as the team's favorite: cowboy pork glazed with blackberries jam served with 'fufu', local fish on a sugar snap peas puree, NY strip with Peruvian chimichurri, and 8 hours slow-cooked beef brisket; all dishes enhanced by a modern twist on flavors and presentation. The Executive chef and his team are clearly dedicated to making you come back presenting you tasty appetizers or full entrée offerings.

As for libations, the beverage team built an equal innovative menu with a detailed selection of stunning wines and signature cocktails to pair with each dish.

The next hot spot in Palm Beach The pop-up is the only spot for Peruvian dining in Palm Beach and offers both indoor dining with panoramic floor to ceiling windows, and outdoor seating with a picturesque view of the resort's luxurious pool and lush gardens. The upscale atmosphere, rich in original architectural details absolute perfect location for dining with loved ones, clients, and business associates. At night, the restaurant's chic bar is a lively place to gather with friends for cocktails and cozy vibes.

One thing must be said: the hotel's staff makes a difference. Real smiles, real attention and real enthusiasm is what you encounter. Here we are experiencing something new, and a new place has new vibes, for you to discover. Radisson Blu Aruba invites locals and visitors alike to enjoy a Peruvian culinary experience they will never forget. Located in the heart of Radisson

Unwind with local prices and a singing angel

Blu Bar offers a nice selection of wines and each Wednesday you will only pay in Florins. The Dollar to Florin deals – 44% discount – on wine bottles start from 5PM every Wednesday. Now it gets even better because from 7PM you can enjoy the amazing voice of local singer Amy Sorinio. The all-round performer has a unique voice and a great energy. She easily connects with her public and enchants you with jazz, easy listening, pop, soul, Latin... name a style and she can do it. Her passion led her travelling all around the world and you will feel her experience and genuine love for music.

Reservations are not required, and walk-ins are welcome. Go and find out why Blu Bar is the next hotspot for a bite, a drink or more. ☐

Radisson Blu Aruba
J.E. Irausquin Boulevard 97-A
Palm Beach, Aruba
Tel.: +297 526 5000

Email:
conciERGE@radissonbluaruba.com



Marking Mental Health Day with a productive workshop Playa Linda maintains a happy, healthy resort

Playa Linda Beach Resort keeps its intimate feel on the busy Palm Beach strip through the warm hospitality always shared with its guests. It's high standard of guest care is founded on an equally high level of care for its team members.

The most recent example of this was in marking World Mental Health Day this past Monday, October 10, with a productive workshop open to all employees. The lecture and team building session, led by Veryunique Guidance, provided the opportunity to talk openly about the importance of mental health and self care, and focused in on solutions when faced with emotional or stressful situations.

"Balance is the main goal, not just the home and work balance, but also how to keep one's mental health in balance," explains Human Resources Manager Gina Adonis. "Our team of employees is essential to achieving a happy, healthy resort environment. World Mental Health Day provided the opportunity to also stress how important it is to also find a deeper level of understanding and compassion for oneself."

The recent workshop spoke on the best holistic practices toward these goals, speaking toward find one's own center as a best practice. The ability of Playa Linda employees to offer their best daily



is the result of a supportive work environment, and the workshop utilized this in having employees explore ideas about mental health together. The employees who signed up for the workshop expressed positive remarks about the experience for its enlightening topics and tips.

Playa Linda Beach Resort's ability to deliver an outstanding vacation experi-

ence has always been based on the connections resort employees make with guests as much as it is the beautiful vacation environment offered by the resort. At the heart of the popular timeshare's success is teamwork, and the sense of family it fosters among owners and guests as well as employees. In the continuous pursuit of securing the wellbeing of its Playa Linda community, the recent World Mental Health Day workshop represented another way toward coming together through a higher level of understanding. □



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Website: www.pinchosaruba.com



Open: Daily for Lunch and Dinner
From: 10:30 am to 10:00 pm
Tel.: 587-2667
Website: www.thewestdeck.com



Aruba Ambassadors, Skipp and Winnie the "Power Couple" is back in Aruba



This couple have been coming to Aruba every year for the last 39 years and this year in February became Aruba Ambassadors.

Married for over 63 years and loved by so many here in Aruba and once again they are back for the 3rd time this year. (Feb, July and now). They already have their booking ready to return next year.

Skipp and Winnie are owners of Speed Garage for the last 60 plus years and still working every day so they can return back to Aruba 3 times a year. Both are full of energy and looking forward to reach 100th so they can come more times to Aruba.

Thanks a lot Skipp & Winnie for the love you two have for our island. Photo by @SteveFrancees

Exhibition Primary colors at the library - color red



ORANJESTAD - The National Library of Aruba presents the third part of the exhibition Primary Colors from October 12 through November 3, 2022.

This one is the color red which is prominent in the artwork. It is an exhibition of a group of artisans, artists, graphic designers, and photographers in its exhibition hall. It runs for three weeks, and admission is free.

The exhibition features various works created with the primary color red. It is a collection of works of art, including paintings, photography, digital art, mosaic art, and sculpture. This group of artists brings together an exciting and unique collection.

The opening will be on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The participating artists are: Ad

Rekkers, Adolfo Valbuena, Ana Luidens-Albornoz, Ann Angela, Carmen Tujeehut, Esther Jones, Gina Jie-Sam-Foek, Gwen Jie-Sam-Foek, Ilse Knijn, Janine Flanegin, Joshua Valbuena, Kat Uribe, Nimia Geerman, Paul Wong, Peter van den Heuvel, Reinier van Sisseren, Robby Solognier, Love4Art Studio: Brigitte Boekhoudt, Diana Hopman-Betjes, Dina Leggers, Genevieve Wientjes, Marianne Beijderwellen, Roelie Groenewegen y Sandra Slabekoorn-Wijngaarde.



Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By

submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

Public and private sector met during workshop 'Towards Integrity in Aruba'

ORANJESTAD – Last Wednesday, members from the public and private sectors joined forces to fight corruption during a workshop titled 'Towards Integrity in Aruba' in the ballroom of La Cabana Resort & Casino.

The workshop was presented by Stichting Deugdelijk Bestuur Aruba (Aruba Good Governance Foundation) in collaboration with Aruba Institute for Good Governance and Leadership from the University of Aruba, Saxion Hogeschool and HopeAruba Movement Foundation.

Mr. Armand Hessels from the Stichting Deugdelijk Bestuur Aruba inaugurated the morning explaining the process that is going on, from a few years already, to finally reach a National Integrity System (NIS) Assessment for Aruba, and also expressed his enthusi-



asm to see a workshop related to integrity become a reality.

During the session, dr. Willeke Slingerland from Saxion Hogeschool, as main research for this project, presented the conclusions and recommendations of the NIS report for

Aruba, which was published last april.

Participants in the workshop, who represented various sectors of our community, had the opportunity to share their thoughts regarding practical ways in which integrity can be stimulated

and fortified in Aruba on the social, political, cultural and economic fields. Some important points which were brought forward were the need to create more awareness and education in our community on the topic of integrity and the consequences of corrup-

tion; the possibility of fortifying the code of conduct in the public and private sectors; and also the desire to see more transparency combined with an exemplary conduct from our leaders and rulers in our community.

In the following months, more workshops will be organized to expand in each fundamental area of the NIS report (social, political, cultural and economic). With these steps, the desire is to manage to concretize the collective recommendations and achieve a specific plan of action that can be carried by a wide basis in our country.

The organizers of the workshop are happy to see the great interest from various stakeholders in our community that also chose to stand up, use their voices and take responsibility as active citizens on our island. □

Minister of Economic Affairs visits Surinam to attend Caribbean Development Roundtable Organized by ECLAC

ORANJESTAD – Last Wednesday, Aruban minister of Economic Affairs, Geoffrey Wever travelled to Suriname to attend the Caribbean Development Roundtable and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee taking place from 12-14 of October in Paramaribo, Suriname.

The organizer of this meeting is the Subregional Headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) which focuses on the Caribbean region.

The meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable is more like a dialogue on various topics regarding the Caribbean and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee is where the progress of the work and the focus of ECLAC for the following year will be stipulated through resolutions.

The themes discussed will be, among others:

Global partnership for repositioning, recovery and resilience in the Caribbean; Economic restructuring and diversification for deeper integration of the Caribbean with Latin America and in the global economy; Towards the Establishment of the Caribbean Resilience Fund.

The interesting aspect of the Roundtable is that the countries come together to dialogue on these topics and how they can achieve these together. After the impact of Covid-19, it is important for the countries in our region to be prepared, and for this reason, they will discuss the creation of a fund for the Caribbean, known as a resilience fund, to help member countries absorb external economic hits.

As organizer of the event, ECLAC covers all travel and boarding expenses. □



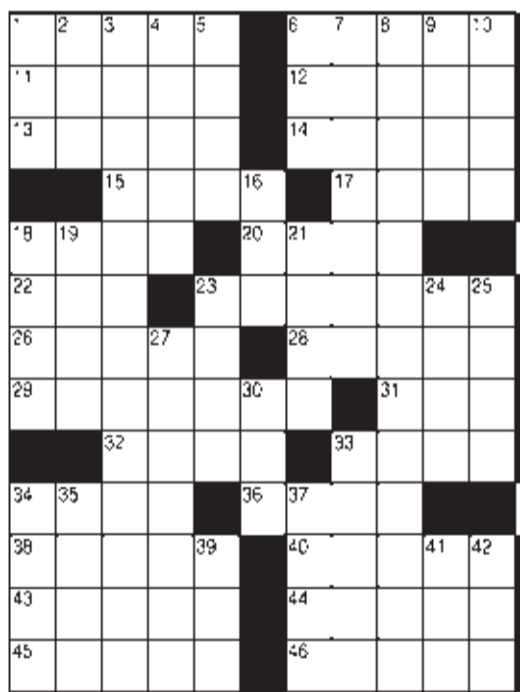
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS** 44 Garment
 1 Short-term workers
 6 Long cars
 11 Corn-husker city
 12 Not out of it
 13 White-horse's river
 14 Game piece
 15 Cuts off
 17 Witty remark
 18 Unvarying
 20 Sweeping story
 22 Copy
 23 Flower parts
 26 Bottled spirit
 28 Yule song
 29 Literary passage
 31 Assam export
 32 Greek vowel
 33 Sea dog
 34 Heaps
 36 Himalayan giant
 38 Taboo acts
 40 Musical sounds
 43 River catch
- DOWN**
 1 Gift from Santa
 2 Aussie bird
 3 Bring up
 4 Texting tool
 5 Beach cover
 6 Back muscle
 7 Battle site of 1945
 8 Verify
 9 Raw rocks
 10 Dis-patched
 16 Ready to go
 18 Cook's mint
 19 High point
 21 Accord
 23 Theater unit
 24 Yule song
 25 Blinds
 27 Clear up
 30 Coral island
 33 Took the wrong way
 34 Small workers
 35 Barcelona bull
 37 Engrave
 39 Sow's place
 41 Finish off
 42 Blue hue



Yesterday's answer



10-14

AXYDLBAAXR
 is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-14

CRYPTOQUOTE

DNJEJ LO GTDNLGB IJDDJE
 DNZG Z CELJGU QGWJOO LD
 LO Z CELJGU MLDN
 R N T R T W Z D J . — W L G U Z
 BEZPOTG

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE QUESTION ISN'T WHO'S GOING TO LET ME; IT'S WHO IS GOING TO STOP ME. — AYN RAND

How to change Medicare plans — and why you might want to

By KATE ASHFORD of Nerd-Wallet

Medicare open enrollment starts soon, but 7 in 10 Medicare beneficiaries say they don't compare Medicare plans during this period, according to a 2021 analysis by KFF, a health policy nonprofit. That's not great, since Medicare Advantage plans which operate much like the private insurance you may have had through an employer change from year to year. One of your doctors may have fallen out of network or your prescription drug prices may have gone up. And people with Original Medicare should compare their Part D prescription drug coverage.

Here's how to approach switching Medicare plans.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ENROLLMENT PERIODS

If you have a Medicare plan, Medicare open en-



This Nov. 8, 2018 file photo shows a page from the 2019 U.S. Medicare Handbook in Washington.

Associated Press

rollment from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7 is your opportunity to change coverage. You can switch from Original Medicare to Medicare Advantage, or vice versa, or enroll in or change Medicare Part D prescription drug plans. If you have Medicare Advantage, you can also use Medicare Advantage open enrollment from Jan. 1 to March 31

each year to switch plans or go back to Original Medicare and sign up for a Medicare Part D drug plan. **CONSIDER PRESCRIPTION DRUGS** If you're on any prescription medications, understand how your current plan will cover them in 2023 and whether another plan might be more affordable. □

IMF chief urges aggressive fight against soaring inflation



By PAUL WISEMAN

International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva speaks during the 2022 annual meeting of the IMF and the World Bank Group in Washington, Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2022.

Associated Press

AP Economics Writer WASHINGTON (AP) — Warning that inflation threatens to become “a runaway train,” the managing director of the International Monetary Fund urged policymakers to keep up the fight against rising prices even it means more pain at a time of extraordinary economic turmoil. Speaking to reporters Thursday, the IMF's Kristalina Georgieva said that the world economy “has been hit by one shock after another” the coronavirus pandemic, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and a resurgence of inflation. “If we do not re-

store price stability, we will undermine prospects for growth,” she said, adding: “We cannot possibly allow inflation to become a runaway train bad for growth, bad for people, bad especially for poor people.” The Federal Reserve and other central banks have been raising interest rates to tame inflation. on Thursday, the U.S. reported that inflations accelerated in September, with the cost of housing and other necessities intensifying pressure on Americans. Consumer prices rose 8.2% compared with September of last year. Georgieva acknowledged that the higher borrowing costs would pinch economic growth, but she urged policymakers to show restraint in spending money to ease the pain. “When monetary policy puts a foot on the brakes,” she said, “fiscal policy should not step on the accelerator.” □

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U.S. opts to not rebuild renowned Puerto Rico telescope

By **DÁNICA COTO**
Associated Press
SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— The National Science Foundation announced Thursday that it will not rebuild a renowned radio telescope in Puerto Rico, which was one of the world's largest until it collapsed nearly two years ago.

Instead, the agency issued a solicitation for the creation of a \$5 million education center at the site that would promote programs and partnerships related to science, technology, engineering and math. It also seeks the implementation of a research and workforce development program, with the center slated to open next year in the northern mountain town of Arecibo where the telescope was once located.

The solicitation does not include operational support for current infrastructure at the site that is still in use, including a 12-meter radio telescope or the Lidar facility, which is used to study the upper atmosphere and ionosphere to analyze cloud cover and precipitation data.

The decision was mourned by scientists around the world who used the telescope at the Arecibo Observatory for years to search for asteroids, planets and extraterrestrial life. The 1,000-foot-wide (305-meter-wide) dish also was featured in the Jodie Foster film "Contact" and the James Bond movie "GoldenEye."

The reflector dish and the 900-ton platform hanging 450 feet above it previously allowed scientists to track asteroids headed to Earth, conduct research that led to a Nobel Prize and determine if a planet is potentially habitable.

"We understand how much the site has meant to the community," said Sean Jones, assistant director for directorate of mathematical and physical sciences at NSF. "If you're a radio astronomer, you've proba-



This July 13, 2016 photo shows the world's largest single-dish radio telescope at the Arecibo Observatory in Arecibo, Puerto Rico.

bly spent some time of your career at Arecibo."

But all research abruptly ended when an auxiliary cable snapped in August 2020, tearing a 100-foot hole in the dish and damaging the dome above it. A main cable broke three months later, prompting the NSF to announce in November 2020 that it was closing the telescope because the structure was too unstable.

Experts suspect that a possible manufacturing error caused the cable to snap, but NSF officials said Thursday that the investigation is still ongoing.

Jones said in a phone interview that the decision to not rebuild the telescope comes in part because the U.S. government has other radar facilities that can do part of the mission that Arecibo once did. He added that the NSF also envisions a five-year maintenance contract to keep the site open, which would cost at least \$1 million a year.

"This is a pivotal time. The education component is very important," said James Moore, assistant director for education and human resource directorate at NSF.

He said by phone that one

of the agency's priorities is to make STEM more accessible and inclusive and that the proposed education center would fill that need. □

Associated Press

ARUBA TODAY
BONDIA

How to reach us!

Downtown



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Oduber Tel. 582 1780

San Nicolas:

San Lucas Tel. 584 5119

OTHER

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

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EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired	Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous	Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous	Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional	Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes	Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention	Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club	Tel. 525 2672

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Review: Romance, mystery in Korean noir 'Decision to Leave'

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP Film Writer

An insomniac detective falls for a beautiful suspect in a suspicious death he's investigating in "Decision to Leave." This deceptively simple premise is stretched over two beguiling hours in director Park Chan-wook's homage to film noir and Alfred Hitchcock. It lulls the viewer, along with the protagonist, into a misty, dreamlike delirium until you're not even certain of what's right in front of your face.

Hae-joon (Park Hae-il) is the detective in question, an elegant, stoic sort who works cases in Busan during the week and spends free weekends with his wife Yoo Mi-ji (Jung Yi-seo), who lives hours away in Ipo. Even his weekend trips home don't always happen — people don't stop murdering because it's the weekend, he explains, but for now the arrangement seems to suit both. He doesn't sleep anyway, so he might as well spend his many, many awake hours in the car. But his world is soon to be upended by a new case involving a skilled climber



This image released Mubi by shows Park Hae-il, left, and Tang Wei in a scene from "Decision to Leave."

who has been found dead at the bottom of a very peculiar mountain that looks like a very tall, narrow mushroom. And while this fallen climber might seem like a rather straightforward case, it becomes less so once he gets a glimpse at the dead man's beautiful widow, Seo-rae (Tang Wei), who is Chinese. Hae-joon is immediately smitten. Seo-rae is neither innocent victim nor straightforward femme fatale. She doesn't seem remotely upset that her husband, who is much older and who abused and branded her, is dead.

She even wants to look at the pictures from the crime scene. She laughs at inappropriate moments, which she later explains happens when she's unsure of her Korean, regularly eats ice cream for dinner and provides home care for grannies, who all love her, during the week. And Hae-joon can't get enough of her either. He stakes out her apartment at night. He watches her at work with the grannies. And they have what might be considered a very strange "date" too, in an interrogation room in the police sta-

tion with others watching through the one-way glass. The expensive takeout sushi they consume is filmed so lovingly you half expect it to have its own credit at the end. But it's clear that Hae-joon, who has just instructed his colleague to not spend too much on his own lunch, is making some very peculiar decisions for such a well-respected, methodical detective. Seo-rae also knows she's being watched and seems to almost like it. Is this romantic? Manipulative? Well, that may depend on the individual viewer, but

it is intoxicating in its own way. But lest you think the "Old-boy" director has opted for sexless sentiment over shock, know that he still takes a certain amount of pleasure zooming in on the ants crawling over the deceased's cloudy eye. It's the first of many nods to obscured vision, from the mists snaking around the roads in Ipo to a pivotal conversation atop a mountain in which one person is wearing a headlamp. And there is a fair amount of humor too, in imperfect text conversations and lost in translation confusions, as well as from Hae-joon's various professional partners, who seem to be in their own workplace comedy. At times, the intricacies of the plot feel almost sadistically confusing especially after the case is "solved" and the film transitions into a different phase. It almost demands a second viewing just to parse everything we come to learn about Seo-rae, as well as all the cinematic references from "Vertigo" to Robert Altman's "The Long Goodbye." □

Associated Press

CNN reveals name, start date for new morning show

By **DAVID BAUDER**
AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — CNN says it will debut its new morning show on Nov. 1, before a new set is even built but with a new name, to get it in front of viewers a week before the midterm election. The show will be called "CNN This Morning," the network said on Wednesday. The program, with Kaitlan Collins, Poppy Harlow and Don Lemon as hosts, replaces the current "New Day" and will air weekdays at 6 to 9 a.m. Eastern. It's the first big programming move by CNN's new chief executive, Chris Licht. "CNN This Morning" echoes

the since-renamed "CBS This Morning," which both Licht and Ryan Kadro, now senior vice president of content strategy at CNN, produced. While the name is similar, and both will share a sensibility of respect for the audience, viewers shouldn't necessarily be looking for a repeat, Kadro said. "We're going to put the full power of CNN's newsgathering on display because we can do that better than anybody," he said. CNN wants to take advantage of an expected bump in viewership surrounding the Nov. 8 election so it is moving ahead in temporary quarters despite a New York-based set for the show

still being under construction, he said. "CNN This Morning" will showcase the network's reporters around the world on big stories of the day, he said. The network's higher-rated cable competitors, "Fox & Friends" and MSNBC's "Morning Joe," are both heavy on opinion. Another priority is building familiarity with the new team: CNN is emphasizing their backgrounds in looking to drive home the point that it's not just a show for people in the New York-Washington corridor, he said. The network has been going to the family homes of each host to film promos:



This combination of photos shows Poppy Harlow at the 11th annual CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute in New York on Dec. 17, 2017, left, CNN news anchor Don Lemon at the 15th annual CNN Heroes All-Star Tribute on New York on Dec. 12, 2021, center, and CNN White House correspondent Kaitlan Collins during a live shot in front of the White House in Washington on July 25, 2018.

Associated Press

Collins in Alabama, Harlow in Minnesota and Lemon in Louisiana. The show's new theme will be "bringing the world home" to the audience, he said.

CNN will be trying some new technical tricks, and will keep viewers updated with onscreen reminders of segments on the show that are still to come, Kadro said. □



Phil Mickelson watches the flight of his tee shot on the first hole during the second round of the LIV Golf Invitational-Chicago tournament Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022, in Sugar Grove, Ill.

Associated Press

Mickelson says LIV on rise and PGA Tour trending downward

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

Back in Saudi Arabia for the first time since his disparaging remarks about the source of LIV Golf's funding, Phil Mickelson said Thursday he was glad he was on the "winning side" and that he sees the PGA Tour trending downward.

Mickelson had said a month ago that while the PGA Tour had all the best players in the world for the last 20 to 30 years, that would never be the case again.

He came out even stronger in a news conference for the LIV Golf Invitational-Jeddah, which starts Friday at Royal Greens in King Abdullah Economic City.

"I think going forward you have to pick a side. You have to pick what side do you think is going to be successful. And I firmly believe that I'm on the winning side of how things are going to evolve and shape in the coming years for professional golf," Mickelson said. "We play against a lot of the best players in the world on LIV and there are a lot of the best players in the world on the PGA TOUR. And ... until both sides sit down and have a conversation and work something out, both sides are going to continue to change and evolve. And I see LIV Golf trending upwards, I see the

PGA Tour trending downwards and I love the side that I'm on."

Mickelson, Dustin Johnson, Brooks Koepka and Bryson DeChambeau were among several major champions Saudi-funded LIV Golf signed to contracts reported to be in the \$125 million range.

LIV Golf currently has 12 of the top 50 players in the world ranking — British Open champion Cameron Smith at No. 2 is the highest, while the majority of them are outside the top 25 because LIV Golf hasn't received world ranking points since it began in June.

The PGA Tour still has a majority of the current stars — 19 of the top 20 — and starts a new schedule in 2023 that will bring the best players together some 15 times a year playing for \$20 million prize funds.

These are some of the changes Mickelson wanted all along. The PGA Tour has suspended him and other members who signed with LIV Golf, which is the main plaintiff in an antitrust lawsuit scheduled for a January 2024 trial.

LIV Golf has 48-man fields with no cut over 54 holes playing for \$25 million each week. Dustin Johnson already has made over \$30 million, including an \$18 million bonus for clinching the individual points race.

Mickelson was seen as a chief recruiter for LIV Golf leader Greg Norman, and it was his comments in February that slowed the inaugural year of LIV Golf.

In an interview with Alan Shipnuck, who published an unauthorized biography of Mickelson in May, the six-time major champion referred to the Saudis as "scary mother(expletives) to get involved with."

"We know they killed (Washington Post reporter Jamal) Khashoggi and have a horrible record on human rights. They execute people over there for being gay. Knowing all of this, why would I even consider it? Because this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reshape how the PGA Tour operates," Mickelson is quoted as saying.

The interview was published two weeks after Mickelson played in the Saudi International at Royal Greens.

Mickelson issued a statement after the interview saying his comments were off the record and shared without context.

On Thursday he said, "I never did an interview with Alan Shipnuck. And I find that my experience with everybody associated with LIV Golf has been nothing but incredibly positive and I have the utmost respect for everybody that I've been involved with."



An FBI seal is seen on a wall on Aug. 10, 2022, in Omaha, Neb.
Associated Press

FBI back at FIFA, teaming up to protect the World Cup

ZURICH (AP) — The FBI has been back at FIFA this week, working with soccer's governing body to protect the World Cup in Qatar from potential crime including match-fixing.

Federal investigators from the United States joined a panel meeting in Zurich that included Interpol and betting monitoring experts to oversee "timely handling of integrity matters" at the tournament that starts on Nov. 20, FIFA said on Thursday.

Their cooperation follows more than seven years after a United States federal investigation and related Swiss case was unsealed that removed a swath of international soccer offi-

cial and led to FIFA's then-president Sepp Blatter being banned for financial misconduct.

FIFA is teaming with the FBI also because the U.S. co-hosts the next World Cup with neighbors Canada and Mexico.

The FBI "as the principal law enforcement and investigative service of the United States will be joining the group to contribute with its experience and expertise, also in preparation for the FIFA World Cup 2026," FIFA said.

FIFA said its Integrity Task Force will monitor "betting markets and in-game action in real time" for the 64 games being played in Qatar. □

This summer has made clear the big divide in golf, with the PGA Tour and European tour wanting no part of anyone who has signed to play with LIV Golf. The U.S. Open and British Open had allowed LIV Golf players to compete if they were eligible, though both organizations spoke out against the rival league. The Royal & Ancient asked Norman not to take part in the 150th anniversary celebration at St. Andrews in July.

Mickelson said golf is "very lucky" to have Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund invest in the sport. Along with enormous money paid to LIV Golf players and purses, it has invested \$300 million in the Asian Tour.

"Now the United States and the U.K. are not favorable to this," Mickelson said. "But everywhere outside in the world, LIV Golf is loved.

And eventually they come around and they will be accepting of it."

Mickelson, 52, signed with LIV Golf in June, one year after he became the oldest major winner at the 2021 PGA Championship for his sixth major title.

In six appearances with LIV Golf, he has registered only one top 10 — a tie for eighth outside Chicago, seven shots behind Smith.

He contends LIV Golf has reinvigorated him and made him excited to compete.

"I love the experience. I love the way they treat us. I love the way they involve us and listen to us in decisions," he said. "I mean it's so inclusive. ... LIV Golf is leading. Whether it's (wearing) shorts, whether it's other aspects of professional golf that are going to change and evolve, those positions will be led by LIV." □

AP sources: No plan to vote on Commanders owner Dan Snyder

By **ROB MAADDI** and **STEPHEN WHYNO**
AP Sports Writers

There is no plan to vote on Washington Commanders owner Dan Snyder's status at next week's owners meetings in New York, according to three people with knowledge of the agenda.

The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Thursday because the discussions are private.

Snyder's ownership of the team has been widely debated for years amid several scandals and investigations into workplace conduct in Washington. It became a hotter topic Thursday following an ESPN report detailing Snyder's efforts to influence other owners and the league office to maintain control of the team.

ESPN reported, citing anonymous sources, Snyder has hired private investigators and told people he has enough information to expose fellow owners and Commissioner Roger Goodell.

The Commanders are denying the contents of the report. In a statement sent to the AP, a team spokesperson called it "categorically untrue" and "clearly part of a well-funded, two-



Washington Commanders' Dan Snyder poses for photos during an event to unveil the NFL football team's new identity, Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2022, in Landover, Md.

Associated Press

year campaign to coerce the sale of the team, which will continue to be unsuccessful."

Holland & Knight, one of the law firms representing Snyder, did not immediately respond to a message seeking a response to the report.

Snyder has owned the team since 1999. He and the organization are currently the subject of ongoing investigations by the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Reform and former U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White, who is conduct-

ing a new review on behalf of the NFL.

Last month, league executive Jeff Miller said there was no timeline for the completion of White's investigation. Lisa Banks, who represents more than 40 former team employees, among whom some have spoken to White, voiced disappointment about the owners' plan not to vote on Snyder but expects new findings to change that trajectory.

"I think they're waiting, and they've indicated in the past that they're going to

wait, to see what Mary Jo White's report says before making any decisions," Banks said in a phone interview Thursday. "But I expect that after they have that report, they will have plenty to base a removal on, if they choose to do that. I only hope they have the courage to do that." Banks said clients of hers and colleague Debra Katz have been cooperating with the active league and congressional investigations but have not heard back from the NFL office about offers to speak to

Goodell or a representative about their experiences.

The current reviews come on the heels of the league's initial independent investigation by attorney Beth Wilkinson's firm commissioned in 2020, which found Washington's workplace culture to be toxic. Snyder and the team were fined \$10 million in July 2021, and the league said he turned day-to-day operations over to wife Tanya, but no written report of the findings was released.

The lack of a written report prompted Congress to investigate, and officials invited Snyder and Goodell to testify. Goodell appeared at a public hearing in June. Snyder testified in a private deposition for more than 10 hours in July, the transcript of which has still yet to be released.

A spokesperson for the House Committee on Oversight and Reform had no update other than to say the investigation is ongoing.

The day before Goodell testified, the committee released a 29-page memo about its investigation, saying Snyder tried to discredit those accusing him and other club executives of misconduct and tried to influence Wilkinson's investigation. □

Judge wins Baseball Digest player of year; Alcantara top arm



New York Yankees' Aaron Judge follows through on a solo home run, his 62nd of the season, as Texas Rangers catcher Sam Huff, left, and umpire Randy Rosenberg, rear, look on in the first inning of the second baseball game of a doubleheader in Arlington, Texas, Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Aaron Judge was chosen major league player of the year by Baseball Digest and eBay after setting an American League record with 62 home runs.

The New York Yankees slugger beat out two-way star Shohei Ohtani of the Los Angeles Angels, last year's winner and the reigning AL MVP.

Miami Marlins ace Sandy Alcantara was picked as pitcher of the year and New York Mets closer Edwin Díaz was voted the top reliever in awards announced Thursday.

Judge received 18 first-place votes in balloting

by a 22-member panel of baseball writers and broadcasters that included several former players, managers and executives. The other four first-place votes went to Ohtani for another remarkable season on the mound and at the plate.

St. Louis Cardinals first baseman Paul Goldschmidt finished third.

Judge broke the AL mark of 61 home runs established by Yankees outfielder Roger Maris in 1961, helping New York to the AL East title.

A four-time All-Star and the 2017 AL Rookie of the Year, the 30-year-old Judge also

led the majors in runs (133), on-base percentage (.425), slugging percentage (.686), OPS (1.111), extra-base hits (90) and total bases (391). He tied Mets slugger Pete Alonso for most RBIs with 131 and finished second in the AL batting race with a .311 average to Minnesota's Luis Arraez (.316).

In the 54-year history of Baseball Digest's player of the year award, the only other Yankees to win were pitcher Ron Guidry (1978) and shortstop Derek Jeter (2006).

Judge can become a free agent after the World Series. □